GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:976
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2016
Child Marriage
Mahendran Shri C.

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practice of child marriage is increasing in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the number of cases registered and offenders punished under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise;
(c) whether child marriages are still prevalent in the country particularly in the rural areas due to improper implementation of various laws, programmes and policies made by the Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof indicating the number of child marriages reported recently in the country including Rajasthan, State/ UT-wise;
(d) whether the Government proposes to review the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 associated Acts and the efficacy of the existing mechanisms put in place to prevent child marriages and punish the offenders and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the other measures taken by the Government to prevent child marriages in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) to (c) As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data which is available till the year 2014, a total number of 169, 222 and 280 cases have been registered under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) 2006 in the year 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively which shows an increasing trend. The States/UTs wise details of number of cases registered and persons convicted under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 during 2012 to 2014 are annexed. The reasons for child marriage are complex. Social customs, tradition, illiteracy, poverty, lack of awareness about consequences of child marriage are some of the reasons for the prevalence of child marriage.
(d) & (e) The Government of India has enacted the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 repealing the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 in order to prohibit child marriages . The States/UTs from time to time are being regularly pursued for effective implementation of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. Further, State Governments are requested to take special initiative to delay marriage by coordinated efforts on Akha Teejâ€”the traditional day for such marriages; Advertisements in the press and electronic media educating peoples about the issue of Child Marriage etc also being taken up. Platforms such as the International Women's Day and the National Girl Child Day are used to create awareness on issues related to women and to bring to the centre stage issues such as child marriage. Through the Sabla programme of this Ministry, adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 18 years are imparted training with regard to legal rights of women which also includes the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. Under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Programme, awareness campaigns have been taken to prevent child marriages as well as emphasizing on girls education.
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